

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission

FROM: Ed Carter, Executive Director
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

SUBJECT: TFWC Committee Meeting
Thursday April 26, 2018 @ 1 p.m.
Region II – Ray Bell Building – Nashville

TFWC Commission Meeting
Friday April 27, 2018 @ 9 a.m.
Region II – Ray Bell Building – Nashville

DATE: April 13, 2018

The upcoming TFWC meetings are scheduled to meet on Thursday, April 26 beginning at 1 p.m. and Friday, April 27 at 9 a.m. in Nashville at the Region II Ray Bell Building.

The “cut-off date” for reserving rooms in the Room Block is 4 p.m. local time at the Sheraton Four Points on April 13, 2018. After the cut-off date, it is at Hotel’s discretion whether to accept additional reservations, which will be subject to prevailing rates and availability. If you haven’t reserved your room, please click on link: [Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Room Block](#) or call 615-964-5500.

The minutes from the March 21, 2018 commission meeting held at the Region II Ray Bell Building in Nashville are included. This link provides April’s memo and agenda items:
<https://www.tn.gov/twra/twra-commission.html>

Jumping ahead, our 2018 TFWC September meeting will be held in Knoxville at the Holiday Inn at Cedar Bluff. For any commission members choosing to extend their reservation to the weekend in order to attend the home football game at the University of Tennessee, vs. Florida, the hotel requires a 2-night minimum stay for both Friday and Saturday to receive a \$229 rate over these high demand dates. Room rate of \$98 September 19 & 20 and \$229 Friday/Saturday September, 21 & 22. Please contact Kelly Youhas as soon as possible, if you’re interested in extending your stay at 865-693-1011.

The following are brief explanations of agenda items:

Presentation of Meritorious Service Award – Richard Markland, Region IV Wildlife Technician in the Fisheries Division, will be recognized for his heroic actions that saved a fisherman who was drowning in the South Holston River. Frank Fiss, Fisheries Division Chief

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Jeffrey Howell, National Vice President –Development - Delta Waterfowl Foundation, will be here to discuss missions and programs for Delta Waterfowl in the U.S. and Canada. Mr. Howell will give a proposal for partnership and present a funding request for the upcoming year.

Hunting and Trapping Seasons FY2018-19 and FY2019-20 – Chuck Yoest, Wildlife and Forestry Division Assistant Chief, will introduce a lineup of speakers to present the results of the 2017-18 hunting seasons and regulation recommendations for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 seasons. Presenters will be: Jamie Feddersen - statewide seasons for hunting with raptors; Roger Applegate - recommended regulation changes to furbearer hunting and trapping seasons; James Kelly - results of the 2017-18 deer hunting season and recommended regulations changes for deer hunting; Joy Sweaney - results of the 2016 Fall and 2017 Spring turkey hunting seasons; Brad Miller - results of the 2017 elk hunting seasons and recommended regulation changes for elk hunting; Dan Gibbs - results of the 2017 bear hunting seasons and recommended regulation changes for bear hunting; Jim Hamlington - recommendations for regulation changes to WMAs in Region I; Richard Kirk - recommendations for regulation changes to WMAs in Region II; Kirk Miles - recommendations for regulation changes to WMAs in Region III; John Mike recommendations for regulation changes to WMAs in Region IV; Joy Sweaney - recommendations for changes to hunting seasons and bag limits on select national wildlife refuges and other federal areas.

Amendment to Falconry Proclamation 18-05 Manner and Means – Falconry will be moved from a stand-alone proclamation to appropriate species' proclamation as a Manner and Means allowance. We will propose hunting with raptors as a method of take. Jamie Feddersen, Wildlife and Forestry Division

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Whirling Disease Update - This presentation will describe the disease, its possible impacts and how TWRA is responding to this recent finding as it has been detected in trout populations of the South Holston and Watauga rivers. Brandon Simcox, Streams and Trout Coordinator

BOATING & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Proclamation 18-05 Manner & Means - Lt. Col. Cape Taylor, Boating and Law Enforcement Division Assistant Chief, will summarize changes to Proclamation 17-04. Those changes are: Legal hunting devices will be updated to include falconry for small game and migratory birds, air guns .35 caliber and larger for big game, legalizing the air bow during archery season for persons possessing one of the Agency disabled licenses and for anyone hunting during the modern gun seasons. The proclamation will also be amended to prohibit unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) for hunting any wildlife, and to prohibit the use of

any cervid urine, except synthetic, for hunting. A change in the rules for big game check-in will be proposed to allow for electronic check-in of bears unless otherwise prohibited such as special refuge hunts.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Budget Expansion FY18- CWD Freezers - A request of an expansion of \$168,800 for CWD storage freezers. These funds will be utilized for the procurement of eight (8) walk in freezers; one for each law enforcement district. Each freezer will be 12'x12' in size on a concrete pad and will be equipped with a back-up generator. These freezers will be dedicated for storage of cervid carcasses that have been illegally imported into the State of Tennessee and are being held as evidence. Col. Darren Rider, Boating and Law Enforcement Division Chief

The standard **Financial Report** will be presented.

RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE

Tennessee's Weekend for Wildlife – an update will be given by Robin Hill, TWRF Event Coordinator, on the upcoming fundraising event which is scheduled for October 5-6, 2018 at the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville. Robin Hill, TWRF

Buffalo Ridge Refuge Video Presentation – Donald Hosse, TWRA Wildlife Educational Outreach Coordinator, will present information along with a six-minute video about TWRA's newest property, Buffalo Ridge Refuge.

There is no action scheduled for committees not listed.

Please feel free to call if you need additional information. We look forward to seeing you on April 26 & 27, 2018.